

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 01576 211509Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04 HEW-06 IO-13 DHA-02

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8143

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL QUEBEC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1576

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: QUEBEC LANGUAGES ISSUE AND PATRIATION OF CONSTITUTION

REF: MONTREAL 1568

1. ACTING PRIME MINISTER ALLAN MACEACHEN DENIED, IN LETTER TO GAZETTE, TRUTH OF ALLEGATIONS OF LOSS OF ANGLOPHONE RIGHTS IN DRAFT PROTOCOL ON PATRIATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. DREW ATTENTION TO ANOTHER CLAUSE WHICH STATES: "ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARE THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF CANADA, BUT NO PROVISION IN THIS PART SHALL DEROGATE FROM ANY RIGHT, PRIVILEGE, OR OBLIGATION EXISTING UNDER ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION."

2. PREMIER HATFIELD OF NEW BRUNSWICK IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ARTICLE 133 OF THE BNA WAS "NEVER TAKEN UP" IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS AND "IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THIS SECTION, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER SECTIONS, WOULD REMAIN AS THEY WERE. AT NO TIME HAVE I EVER HEARD, PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY, ANY SUGGESTION FROM PREMIER BOURASSA THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING MINORITY IN QUEBEC SHOULD BE DIMINISHED IN ANY RESPECT."

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3. "ASSUMPTION" MAY NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO DISPEL SUSPICIONS

ENGENDERED BY ORIGINAL STORY BUT FIRMNESS OF DENIAL WILL CARRY
WEIGHT.
HARPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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